

OMTA Music News

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MTNA Student Competition News

Several important items are detailed below. Students selected to represent Oregon at the National Student Performance Competition, a repertoire requirement change for the 2009–10 Piano Competition, the date and location for the fall 2009 State Competition and an opportunity to work at the Division level are herein announced.

NW Division Competition Results. Congratulations to the following Oregon students and teachers. Winners will go to the competition in Atlanta in March. Best of luck to them!

Junior Division

Winner, Elementary Composition
Edison Tsai,
student of Gary Noland

Winner, Piano
Yurie Farnsworth,
student of Julia Hwakyu Lee

Honorable Mention, Strings
Kristin Qian, Violin,
student of Carol Sindell

Senior Division

Honorable Mention, Composition
Keith Buncke,
student of Jeffrey Payne

Alternate, Piano
Rosa Li,
student of Dorothy Fahlman

Alternate, Strings
Brandon Garbot,
student of Clarisse Atcherson

Honorable Mention, Voice
Abigail Dock,
student of Laurie Anne Hunter

Winner, Woodwinds
Emily Potter,
student of Sandy Duffy Norman

Young Artist Division

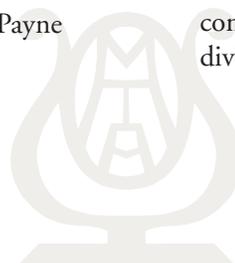
Winner, Chamber Music
Sinombre Piano Trio
Han Jun Lee/Violin,
Talia Lindsley/Cello,
Ben Corbin/Piano,
students of Claire Wachter

Alternate, Piano
Kanakano Ishihama,
student of Claire Wachter

Repertoire Requirement Change

At the Division Competition in January Debra Florian, NW Division Director, announced that the concerto requirement for the piano division has been eliminated. Those

(Continued on page 2)



who have been hesitant to participate in the competitions because of the piano concerto requirement may be delighted to learn that this requirement has been eliminated. This change will take effect with the Fall 2009 competition season. Official rules will be posted in the *American Music Teacher* this summer.

2009 State Competition

The Blue Mountain District, Dr. Matt Cooper (former OMTA President), and Eastern Oregon University in LaGrande will be hosting the 2009 State Competition October 23–24. This event will be combined with the Fall State Board Meeting and the Syllabus Adjudicators Retreat. Details will be published in future issues of *Music News*.

NW Division Junior Competition Coordinator

Jammie Wileman, our NW Division Competitions Chair, has announced that Abbi Clark, who has served as Junior Coordinator, is going back to school and has resigned as coordinator. The junior position is less demanding, as there are not as many instruments, yet very important. If you want to work at the NW Division level of MTNA, contact OMTA President Susan Todd. Candidates for the coordinator position must be computer literate and have a recommendation from their local district president.

Susan Todd, NCTM
President, OMTA

President's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

An exciting and inspiring time of learning is coming up in March, at the 2009 MTNA Conference in Atlanta. OMTA members attending the Conference are invited to the Northwest Division dinner set for Sunday, March 29, and to sit at the Oregon table at the MTNA Gala on Monday, March 30. Join me in congratulating our 2008 Foundation Fellow, Mary Hulme, who will be among the Fellows honored at the Gala. Conference and registration details may be found on the MTNA Web site: www.MTNA.org.

If Atlanta is too far for you, mark your calendar now for the 2010 Conference, set for March 20–24 in Albuquerque. Let's have a good Northwest contingent at this Southwest Conference!

Congratulations to all the Oregon students who participated in the Northwest Division competition held in Spokane in January. Winners, Alternates and Honorable Mentions are listed on page 1.



When I was nine, my parents, after years of me begging, enrolled me in piano lessons with Mrs. Jean Ellington, the “little old lady down the block.” I was so fortunate that this “little old day” was a wonderful teacher. Over the next nine years Mrs. Ellington taught me how to read, perform, and love music. She insisted on excellence, rich tone production, varied repertoire and quick, clean scales. Somewhere along the line, it became my goal in life to be just like Mrs. Ellington when I grew up. That is still my goal. This gracious lady (who I later realized was not all that old) was active in her local MTA, coordinated a local recital group, and when I visited her last September, she was still teaching. Mrs. Ellington passed away in January, just shy of her 90th birthday. Thanks for your inspiration, Mrs. E!

Your active membership in OMTA sets you on a good road toward being influential in the lives of your students. You have the benefit of excellent continuing education opportunities at local meetings, local and state festivals, and the state and national conferences. Your colleagues can encourage and advise you on your teaching journey. Your students have many performance opportunities and the benefit of the many excellent syllabus options—piano, jazz piano, string, voice, guitar, woodwinds and celtic harp. On behalf of your students, thanks for being in OMTA!

Happy Trails,
Susan M. Todd, NCTM
President, OMTA

State News *Education*

Jane Smith
Education Chair



STUDY GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Please consider applying for one of the following opportunities for OMTA members age 25 and older, to further their education.

- The Roberta Davie composition study grant of up to \$300 is available to OMTA private teachers integrating composition into their studios.
- The Albert Nakata grant is to be used to assist in continuing education for OMTA members 25 and older.
- The Frances and Constance Bittner Memorial Grant is available to help offset the cost of attending a Pedagogical Conference. It cannot exceed 50 percent of the actual cost of the conference.
- Application forms are on the OMTA Web site under "Study Grants". Applications are due by May 31 to Jane Smith, Education Chair.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR NEEDY STUDENTS

The Jane Thomas Memorial Scholarship is made available to needy, hard-working students with exceptional talent, and is to be used for private study with an OMTA teacher. A description of the scholarship and its parameters is on the OMTA Web site. Young students are happily considered. The application is to be filled out by the student's OMTA teacher. Applications are due by May 31 and should be sent to Jane Smith, Education Chair.

For more information, e-mail Jane Smith at janemendenhallsmith@yahoo or call 503 538 8848.

WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY

Department of Music

Be heard.
Music at
Willamette
University

DEGREE PROGRAMS

BA in Music
BM in Composition
BM in Performance
BM in Music Education
Minor in Music
Minor in Arts & Technology

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AUDITION DATES

November 7, 2009
January 23, 2010
February 15, 2010

Schedule an audition:
503-370-6687

*A faculty dedicated to educating the complete musician,
artist and person*

Office of Admission • Willamette University
900 State Street, Salem, OR 97301
503-370-6303 or 1-877-LIBARTS
www.willamette.edu/cla/music



State News *OMTA State Conference, 2009*

Fern L. McArthur, NCTM
OMTA Conference Chair



As I write this communication to you in early February, Conference dates seem far away, but I am hoping all of you are making plans to come to Eugene July 31 to August 2 to take advantage of the opportunity to meet and network with your colleagues and partake in the variety of education and ideas the Conference has to offer.

On the menu are presentations addressing contemporary repertoire, how young people learn, basic teaching techniques for early to intermediate students, intermediate repertoire, and master classes for intermediate and advanced students. Our Conference artist, Santiago Rodriguez, will perform for us on Saturday evening, and we will offer the usual banquet, a Friday evening event at the U of O Art Museum and the Composer of the Year recital. Presenters include Dr. Jane Magrath, Dr. Scott McBride Smith, Phyllis Pieffer, Susan Bruckner and Dr. Susan Chan.

As financial times are difficult, I would suggest that this is a great value for us to continue our education. Thanks to another generous grant from the Nellie Tholan Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation, we will again offer housing rebates and a reduced registration fee.

We are still confirming details and costs for lunches and activities, but the registration form will be available on the Web site by March 1. We will also have a Web site link to the Eugene Hilton Hotel to book your lodging reservations. Registration forms will be sent to those who do not have Web site access.

We look forward to hosting you here in Eugene and hope you are planning ahead to join us!

Regards to all,
Fern L. McArthur, NCTM
OMTA Conference Chair

State News *Syllabus*

Bethany Crosby
Syllabus Chair



FALL SYLLABUS

Fall Syllabus was great! 165 teachers entered 711 students over the course of 65 Evaluation Days. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make it successful.

It is a privilege to offer this quality program to all of the students in our state. Students and teachers in OMTA benefit by taking part in our Syllabus program and the accountability it provides.

Every teacher that participates in Syllabus can do so because of the faithful responsibility shown by all of our District Syllabus Chairs. Here are some ways you can show appreciation and support to your Syllabus Chair, and it will make their job easier as well.

- Observe deadlines. Not sure of the deadlines? Check the Web site. Portland members go to omta-portland.org and click on members and teachers then go to Syllabus to find appropriate forms and schedules.
- Use current forms. Again, go to the Web site and get the current forms. There are small changes made each year and it's important that you use the forms that are current each year. If you have trouble getting to a computer or using the Web site, have a fellow teacher help or call your Syllabus Chair for some names.
- Read and follow the Instructions for Teachers. This particular form is on the Web site and includes the Registration Form you will need. Teachers in the Portland area need to use the Portland district Web site (omta-portland.org) to get their forms.
- Be flexible. Don't ask for special favors in scheduling. Provide the basic information your Chair needs to make the

schedules without providing specific times. You can ask for "morning or afternoon" but don't be too specific beyond that.

- Offer to host evaluations. If you have a studio that can accommodate Syllabus Evaluations, then use it. If you are entering over three hours of evaluations then you should seriously consider hosting Syllabus at your studio or find a location where you can act as hostess.
- Be considerate of your hostess. If you and your students go to another studio for Syllabus, be there for the whole time and act as a monitor.
- Schedule a Teacher Conference. You are required to schedule a Teacher Conference each Syllabus season you enter students—one in the fall and one in the spring. If your district holds separate Lower and Upper Division evaluations, then you only need to schedule one in the spring. If you have three hours or more of Evaluations, then you are required to schedule a 25-minute conference. If you will have enough students for two days, you should schedule one conference each day. Work with your District Chair if you have questions.
- Use the appropriate type of exam for your student. If your student has not mastered the requirements for a full Evaluation, please change it to an Audition or Demonstration. You may make this change when you introduce the student to the adjudicator even if the entry indicates that it will be a full Evaluation.



State News *Syllabus (continued)*

Remember to use your new Lower Division Repertoire list when choosing repertoire for Syllabus. You are not limited to composers in that list but composers you choose need to represent the period in which they compose. This is especially pertinent to 20th century composers. As a general rule, stay away from choosing pieces in method books

and know that not all Jr. Festival pieces are appropriate for Syllabus. Pieces chosen from the Contemporary period should reflect Contemporary idioms.

Thank you for continuing to promote this valuable program in your studios. I look forward to seeing your Adjudicator Evaluations and comments.

State News *Syllabus Recital*

Claudia Hegberg
Level X Recital Chair



LEVEL X STATE RECITALS

These recitals will always be once a year, the first Sunday in June. The next one will be June 7, 2009 (from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., 2:30 to 3:30 and 4:00 to 5:00) at Sherman Clay, Moe's Pianos in Downtown Portland. You

and your student may choose the piece to be performed (from the Level X repertoire and no longer than 7 minutes). To participate, please mail details to Claudia Hegberg by May 22.

Claudia Hegberg
16920 NW Elkton
Beaverton, OR 97006

State News *Junior Bach Festivals*

Gayle Bland
Junior Bach Festival Chair



Throughout the beautiful state of Oregon there are Junior Bach festivals in progress. The Final Event will be held in Newport, Oregon. For details, check the Oregon Music Teachers Association Web site at www.oregonmta.org.

I want to thank all the teachers for preparing their students and district and regional chairs for organizing the festivals in their areas. I appreciate all of your support of the program and your cooperation.

Thank you again.

State News *Ensemble Festival*

Joan B. Gathercoal, NCTM
Arthur G. Baines
State Ensemble Co-Chairs



NEW DATES FOR THE 2009 OMTA
STATE ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL:

Saturday, November 7 and
Sunday, November 8, 2009

The Russell Tripp Performance Center in Takena Hall, LBCC Albany Campus, is again the site for the 2009 OMTA State Ensemble Festival. We are grateful to Linn-Benton Community College for again agreeing to host our annual event. In order to use their facilities, we need to change our dates from last year. This will mean that our deadline for state recital entries will be

Saturday, October 24, 2009. As a result, our district ensemble festivals will also need to be earlier than in previous years.

All the districts who participated last year agreed that the three age groups worked very well, as did the dual entry form developed last year and used for both district and state recitals. Just a reminder: the 2009 teacher guidelines, adjudicator guidelines, and the new dual entry form are all on the Web site.

We hope the change of dates for this year will be acceptable to all and fit into everyone's schedule.

State News *Certification*

Patti Widener, NCTM
State Certification Chair



WINTER CERTIFICATION NEWS

Greetings! I want to wish all of my colleagues a wonderful 2009! I am happy to announce that Molly Wheeler has attained her National Certification in piano. Please congratulate her when you see her! We have two more candidates sitting for the final certification exam in March, and several more in various stages of the process. I am very excited to see members investigate the certification process and begin the first steps of the journey. If needed, we will offer a testing date in late spring, then again at the State Conference in Eugene July 31–August 2, exact dates TBA.

All certified teachers were recently notified about changes in the renewal process. If you don't have this information please note the "January Certification Moment" following this article.

Do you want to grow as a professional? Do you want to catch up on the latest pedagogy? Maybe you need renewed enthusiasm and fresh ideas? Setting the goal to become Nationally certified in 2009 can certainly help you catch this renewed vision for you and your students.

How do you get started? Go to the MTNA Web site (<http://www.mtna.org>)

and click on Certification, then Certification Overview at the top. There you will find a summary of the process. From there click on Certification Process, then Process in Detail. You should then have a page with diagrams that gives a step-by-step overview. If you have your college transcripts in hand, you can see what the process will entail for you.

Don't have a degree in music? We have many fabulous teachers that have successfully attained National Certification, doing it one step at a time.

There are mentors ready to help you walk through the process. We, the Certification Committee, are committed to your success. National certification gives us, the independent music teachers, a professional status that is readily identifiable in the community

Please call or e-mail me for any questions. I can also give you ideas to help you begin preparing. Dear teachers, let us make 2009 truly the year for professional growth!

Yours for Certification,
Patti Widener, NCTM
State Certification Chair
happykeys88@hotmail.com
503-246-8183



MTNA CERTIFICATION

January Certification Moment

Dear Nationally Certified Member,

Have you ever gotten the certification renewal notice from headquarters and gone into a panic because you realize that you must very quickly reconstruct five years of activities? You frantically start digging through and organizing boxes of old programs, or you start collecting signatures from people who may or may not remember your attendance at a workshop several years ago?

Unfortunately, each year about 40 percent of our renewing certified members decide that it is just too difficult and choose to not renew! Fortunately, the National Certification Commissioners and the MTNA Board of Directors have agreed to make the renewal process a great deal easier for you.

Following the completion of your current five-year renewal cycle, you will renew yearly. This means that if you will only need to keep track of ONE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES! The fees will be prorated for one fifth of the current, five-year fees—only \$15.00 per year!

If you are *not* full or part time college faculty, following the completion of your current five-year renewal cycle, **you will simply renew with the new Documentation of Renewal Activities Form.** No more programs to collect, no more boxes to ship.

The points on this new form are simply verified by your signature. (No more finding people to sign your form!)

The points are prorated, so you fulfill your yearly renewal with a minimum of three points: one point from Standard IV, one point from Standard V and one point from your choice of all the renewal activities.

Full- or part-time college faculty will continue to use the Administrative Verification Form each year.

Permanent Professional Certification will be conferred upon the successful completion of your 10th year of renewals. After you reach Permanent Professional Certification status, you will simply fill out an application and pay the certification renewal fee each year.

We are delighted to bring you an easier, more streamlined process for your next renewal!

REMINDER! Don't forget that applications for the Piano Technicians Guild scholarship must be postmarked by February 1!

Sincerely,
Rebecca Johnson, NCTM
National Certification
Commission Chair

State News *OMTA Foundation*

Robyn Pfeifer, MTNA
Foundation Fund Chair



OMTA Foundation is pleased to announce that Mary Hulme has been selected as a MTNA Foundation Fellow and will be traveling to Atlanta, Georgia to attend the Music Teachers National Association Conference at the end of March. The MTNA Foundation Fellow Program is a way to honor an individual and support the efforts of the MTNA Foundation Fund. In order to designate a Foundation Fellow, a contribution of \$1,000 or more is made to the MTNA Foundation Fund in an individual's name.

Mary Hulme has been a piano teacher for over 30 years and during that time has been an active member of OMTA and MTNA. She has served on several OMTA committees including the Legislative, Ethics, and Conventions Committee, the Student Chapters Committee, and the Syllabus Committee. During her four years as Syllabus Committee Chair she introduced the Syllabus Level X Recital to honor students who achieved that goal. She also initiated the Syllabus Adjudicator Training Program in Oregon and was the first adjudicator to complete the program. Hulme has been a Nationally Certified Teacher of Music and an active Syllabus Adjudicator since 1984.

In 1986 Hulme was elected President of OMTA. She later served as MTNA Northwest Division President and ultimately on the MTNA Board of Directors. Since 1997 she has been the Oregon MusicLink coordinator and is the current Public Relations Chair for OMTA.

The Fellow Program has been in place for many years, but only recently has the OMTA begun participating. In the last two years the OMTA Foundation has raised enough funds to participate in the Fellow Program. It is due to the generosity and dedication of our members that the OMTA is able to confer this honor upon Mary Hulme.

If you would like to nominate someone as an MTNA Foundation Fellow in 2010, please send your nomination to the OMTA Foundation Fund Chair, Robyn Pfeifer, at robyn@pianowerks.com. Include your name and contact information, the name of the person you are nominating and their contact information, and an explanation of why you believe that person should receive the honor. Please also indicate if the nominee knows of the nomination.



State News *Independent Music Teachers Forum*

Barbara Imbrie, NCTM
*Independent Music
Teachers Forum Chair*



Hello teachers! It has been awhile since my last column. We have weathered snow, sleet, ice-cancelled recitals and the new year, and now we are looking at the next six months of teaching for most.

Our economy has certainly affected the number of students we have and their abilities to pay for the lessons. What are some of your marketing tools in this sluggish economy? Referrals are best of course, but sometimes we need new ideas to promote ourselves and I would like some ideas from you, OMTA readers.

I just returned from a month in Arizona. The music teachers there are feeling the crunch too. One music owner, who had once expanded to five stores, has just gone out of business because of the economy. A friend of mine who is active in PMTA (Phoenix Music Teachers Association) and has been teaching voice in Scottsdale for years is down to five students. Another friend, located in an affluent area, is doing fine. It depends on the area in which you live and what the market will hold.

Having moved to Portland five years ago in October, I am still struggling to establish myself as a piano/voice teacher. When I lived in Phoenix I taught at a college that supplied me with many students; when I moved to Port Angeles I worked at the Port Angeles Community College where I had access to students. Having had a way to acquire students through colleges was a godsend. Since 9/11 2001, it has been more difficult to attract and keep students and now even harder because of the economy.

My e-mail has changed and I would love to hear from you in this strange economy. Please use my new e-mail: barbaraimbrie@comcast.net

Musically,
Barbara Imbrie NCTM
Independent Music
Teachers Forum Chair

State News *Membership*

Barbara Gustafson, NCTM
OMTA State Membership Chair



Welcome New Members *March/April 2009*

Eugene District

Caulley, Katie
Piano

Wilborn, Irina
Piano

Portland District

Milburn, Sarah E.
Piano

Park, Jennifer (student)
Piano



Roseburg District

Novak, Christine
Piano

OMTA Records

Any changes to your OMTA records (address, e-mail, phone etc.) should be sent both to Ed Davie, Support Secretary, (edavie@oregonmta.org) and to National Headquarters (edonaldson@mtna.org). This will avoid problems with future Directory omissions and other errors. If you don't have access to e-mail, please contact Ed Davie and he will forward the information for you.

E-mail Requests

I occasionally receive requests to send e-mail to "all" members or "Portland dist" members. People need to be aware that I can't do that without permission.

For State items, either Publications Chair Bonnie Esbensen (esbensen@comcast.net) or President Susan Todd (fastkeys88@toddfamily.com) need to approve.

For Portland, District President Solveig Sorensen (solveigms@hotmail.com) can give approval.

Thank you,
Ed Davie, OMTA Support Secretary



District News *Eugene*

Sarah Burch

Corresponding Secretary



Winter greetings from the Eugene District OMTA! It has been a fun and fruitful year so far for our teachers and students.

We enjoyed hearing students perform collaboratively in the Ensemble Festival, held at the University of Oregon, in November. We also had our annual Festival of Popular Music and Fall Syllabus. The annual Barnes and Noble Fundraising event, organized by Mary Ellen Yost, was a great success and helped raise valuable funds for our district operations. The new year brought the first ever Composition Workshop for students, organized and presented by teacher-composers Eularee Smith, Sharon Parmenter and Neil Patton. Forty-six students were coached in the compositional process in 45-minute workshops covering

the stages involved in writing an original piece of music. We look forward to hearing many of the results in the composition festival later this year. We recently enjoyed a program presented by our own Crystal Zimmerman entitled *Albums for the Young and Young at Heart*, and we look forward to welcoming Dorothy Fahlman for a workshop and master class on February 9 entitled *Achieving Excellence!* Finally, we are currently upgrading our district Web site with many new features and a new look. You can see our progress, read our newsletter and peruse our student offerings by visiting www.oma-eugene.org.

We look forward to the second part of our year and welcome you to join us for some of our upcoming programs and events. 

District News *Rogue Valley*

Kate Campbell
District Secretary



Greetings from sunny (but chilly) Southern Oregon! The Rogue Valley chapter is spread over a vast area, including parts of California, but somehow we manage to get bodies together for meetings, festivals, recitals, rehearsals, and teachers' programs.

First of all, we'd like to invite any and all OMTA members to our March program with Sharon Hinckley from Vancouver. She will spend part of a Saturday (the 21st) discussing ways to enhance our teaching skills. Some topics to be covered are: keeping the thrill alive for 6th–8th grade students; teaching the most in the least amount of time; and teaching tips for students who have little time to practice. Please contact Judy Axtell for more information: rvteachers@gmail.com or 541-592-2263.

In January, we asked musician friends and families to join us in putting on the fourth annual fundraiser concert for our high school graduate music scholarship, given each year in the memory of long-time OMTA member Julia Frantz. The two concerts were well-attended, and we raised over \$1,200 for the scholarship fund. Plana Cotton, an active composer in our

group, presented another stunning premiere written for this occasion: *Night Crossing*, a chamber piece for bass clarinet, English horn and piano. What a marvelous combination! Six of us had a lot of fun playing a wild, 12-hand version of Katchaturian's *Sabre Dance* on keyboards, arranged by Waldon Hughes. Hughes, a professor at NW Nazarene University, has arranged over 80 pieces for multiple-hand piano or keyboard, and can be found online. Many other talented and generous musicians gave their time, skills and performances to the scholarship fundraiser concert. We look forward to next year!

Aside from interesting OMTA meetings and programs, we have had the usual gamut of festivals, competitions and recitals involving our students. It seems that the schedules of many kids (and teachers) are as hectic as usual, but involvement in our music events has actually increased, despite the faltering economy and loss of jobs.

We send out best wishes for good business, good teaching, and continued HOPE in an uncertain world. 



District News *Roseburg*

Marti Magnussen
Corresponding Secretary



On October 8 of last year our district enjoyed a workshop given by Margaret Littlehales on Albums for the Young. This was followed by a luncheon given by the teachers. Margaret brought along a large selection of music, many wonderful suggestions, and ideas she shared with all of us.

Dr. Alexander Tutunov gave a master class at the Douglas County Library in Roseburg on November 15. Two weeks before the class five students' names were drawn through a lottery, giving them an opportunity to work with this wonderful concert pianist and professor from the Oregon University in Medford, Oregon. He gave valuable information on the advantages of slow practice, humor Aspect, performance concerns, the importance of fingering technique and not always having to use the fingering that the editor may indicate. He shared many other aspects of valuable practicing and performance suggestions.

On November 16, Roseburg District received the honor of having four students take part in the State Ensemble Festival,

held every year at Linn-Benton Community College in Corvallis. Students of Faye Rounds (Michelle Holcomb and Leah Alliman) played Heartstrings by Miller; Marti Magnussen's students (Angela Churchill and Allison Churchill) played Military March Op. 1, No. 1 by Schubert. It was a wonderful recital—put together by Joan Gathercoal and Authur Baines—making this year's Ensemble Festival one of the best.

At our next OMTA meeting (January 12, 2009) we will welcome Eularee Smith, who will present a program on young beginners. Eularee is active in several genres in the Fine Arts in Eugene.

Teachers and students are busy practicing their Bach selections for the District Bach Festival on January 31, to be held at the Roseburg County Library. Arlette Irving, our Bach specialist, has put much effort and planning into this annual program, making it one of the highlights of the year.

Here's wishing all the OMTA teachers and students a wonderful new year, with beautiful music being played. 

District News *Tualatin Valley*

Nancy Brown
District Secretary



The teachers of the Tualatin Valley district are enjoying another year of interesting and informative activities. We welcomed OMTA President Susan Todd to our January meeting. She talked with us about the importance of having a studio policy and the topics that should be included in that policy. Her knowledge and enthusiasm made her presentation very inspiring. After her presentation she asked each of us to tell about our own studio policies and it was interesting to hear about the different ways we handle the business of teaching piano.

Our February program will be a master class given by Dr. Susan Chan. She will hear Sarah Derhalli, student of Heidi Evans, play Ivan Sings by Khachaturian and Amanda Glancy, student of Jeanne Holt, play the first movement of Sonata in F, Op. 10 No. 2 by Beethoven. Our own Tualatin Valley past-president, Angela Kelly, will play the second and third movements

of Sonatine by Ravel for Dr. Chan. We are looking forward to this excellent program.

Our new Playing Class met in January at the home of Heidi Evans. Our focus this month was contemporary music that would be appropriate for Syllabus. We played for one another and shared some of our favorite contemporary literature collections. The growing friendships and mutual support created at these meetings are an invaluable part of our membership in OMTA.

Our fifth annual Sacred Music Recital will take place on February 21 at Tualatin United Methodist Church. Students of all ages may play music of any religion in this recital and memorization is optional.

In March we will have our annual Teachers' Recital and will enjoy the musicianship of our fellow music teachers. Our meetings are held the second Friday of each month at Tigard Christian Church. 



Related Events & Opportunities



Arthur J. Hill
*Board President,
Pendleton Community
Concert Association*

**MTNA WINNERS PERFORM
IN YOUNG MASTERS CONCERT**
Sunday, November 2 was a very special day for the winners of the MTNA state-wide competitions held at Lewis and Clark College on October 26. Five first-place winners and one first alternate performed in concert at Pendleton's Vert Auditorium,

invited and sponsored by the Pendleton Community Concert Association.

Funded by a special grant from the Wildhorse Foundation with support from the PCCA Board, the soloists were (in order of appearance) Kendra Nichell Johnson, Kristin Qian, Yurie Farnsworth, Emily Kathleen Potter, Joshua Melander, and Rosa Li. With superb accompaniment by Debra Ann Huddleston, the young masters delighted the audience with two hours of breathtaking musicianship. Selections ranged from the haunting Largo of Telemann's Sonata in F Major performed by Kendra Nichell Johnson to Muczynski's edgy "Desperate Measures" variations on Paganini performed by Rosa Li. A reception after the concert gave the audience the opportunity to meet and talk with the young artists, to the delight of all involved.

The Pendleton Community Concert Association would like to thank the OMTA for making this special concert possible. We hope that it will be the first of many Young Masters performances, honoring the students, parents, judges, and teachers who contribute their time, talent and support to nurturing the exceptional talent we are fortunate to count as Oregon's contribution to the future of the world of performing arts. 🌊



Arthur Hill, president of the Pendleton Community Concert Association (right) enjoys the post-concert smiles of Junior Strings winner, violinist Kristin Qian and Kristin's father.



The Pendleton concert was a success thanks to the efforts of Pendleton Community Concert Association board members Carolyn and Ellsworth Mayer and Arthur Hill. Carolyn (not pictured) is president of the Umatilla-Morrow District of OMTA. Ellsworth is pictured on the right with Senior Piano winner Rosa Li.

Related Events & Opportunities



Cynthia Irion

Linn-Benton District President

MASTER CLASSES AND RECITAL

The Linn-Benton District invites you and your students to two master classes and a recital presented by Stephen Beus.

Stephen Beus will perform at LaSells Stewart Center as part of the OSU Music Department Steinway Series. He will be playing Bach/Liszt's Prelude in A Minor, Samuel Barber's Piano Sonata, and the Nicolai Medtner Sonata Tragica. Stephen Beus won First Place in the 2006 Gina Bachauer International Competition, First Place in the Lisbon Vendome International Competition, and was a finalist in the Van Cliburn Piano Competition. He is in his early twenties. This recital will be February 18 at 7:30 p.m. at La Sells Stewart Center, OSU.

In addition to his recital, Stephen Beus will hold a master class for our students. This is a joint event between our district and the OSU Music Department and will be held at OSU's Benton Hall, room 303, February 21 at 10 a.m.

The second Master Class is with Harold Gray, the subject being Early 20th Century French Piano Music. This event was made possible through the support of the Nellie Tholen Endowment Fund Grant, to which we are very thankful. This master class will be April 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 4515 West Hills Road, Corvallis.

I hope to see you there and please feel free to e-mail me for more information at cirion_2000@yahoo.com. 

Jane Smith

McMinnville District Vice President

HAROLD GRAY WORKSHOP

The McMinnville District is hosting a workshop "Using Ourselves Well at the Piano" presented by Harold Gray. It will be held at George Fox University in Ross Center Room 208 on Sunday, March 8 from 1:30 to 4:30. The workshop is sponsored, in part, by a Nellie Tholen grant, and is open to OMTA teachers at no cost.

Harold Gray retired from Portland State University as Professor on Music in 2005 after serving on the faculty there since 1977. As pianist of the Florestan Trio, Artists-in-Residence at the university,

he performed throughout the United States and in Europe and Asia. He has performed in numerous summer festivals on both coasts and in Europe. For four seasons he brought French and American musicians together for chamber music concerts in the villages of Southwest France. Harold has been heard on National Public Radio and Television, and has recorded for Orion, Desmar and Advent-Europe.

For more information, e-mail Jane Smith at janemendenhallsmith@yahoo or call (503) 538-8848. 

Dennis Burbank

Adult Playing Class Chair

OMTA ADULT PLAYING CLASS

The next OMTA adult playing class will be held at Classic Pianos in Portland, 10:30 a.m., Saturday, April 4. All OMTA teachers and their students are cordially invited to come and play or listen and are free to invite guests to listen. The class is open to instrumentalists and singers of all levels. There are no repertoire

requirements, our only limitation is time (2 hours), and the class is non-instructed. Coffee (of both persuasions) is provided and you bring munchies as desired. Please let me know in advance if two pianos will be needed or you have other questions (503-642-4305).

Do join us. 



Portland Youth Philharmonic Plans Birthday Party

Help the Portland Youth Philharmonic celebrate Jacob Avshalomov's 90th birthday. Be there at PYP's Winter Concert on March 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall for the World Premiere of his work: Seasons' Greetings. We will have cake and a time to visit after the concert. There will also be a performance of the Barber Violin Concerto with 15-year-old Concerto Competition winner Brandon Garbot.

Call PYP at 503-223-5939 (M–F 9:00–5:00) to order tickets. PYP is also collecting birthday cards if you would like to send a personal note. Send your card to:

Mr. A's Birthday
C/O PYP
421 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1350
Portland, OR 97204

Oregon Federation of Music Clubs 2009 Biennial Conference

May 16, 2009, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Marylhurst University, Wiegand Hall

Limited Seats Available!

Download your registration form at www.oregonfmc.org under "Events"

Morning Session

Dr. Jill Timmons - The Care and Nurturing of Piano Teachers

Morning Session

Dr. Diane Baxter - *Bring it to the Other Side of the Wall*
A presentation on performance anxiety

Morning Session

Judy Zahrndt - *Duets*

Presentation: *What's better than 2 hands? 4 Hands! Building new relationships at the piano.*
Workshop: *Useful Tools of Duets: Combining Teaching and Technology without the Learning Curve*

Afternoon Session

Nathan Knutson, NFMC Young Artist Winner
Solo performance and master classes with high-school and college students



The Chamber Music Society of Oregon 2009-2010 Concerto Competition

Audition Works Series

Grieg Piano Concerto in a minor, op. 16

Chaminade Concertino for Flute, op. 107

Bruch Viola Romance, op. 85

Information

Applicants must be no more than age 19 as of December 31, 2009. A winner in each category will be selected to perform with the Oregon Sinfonietta at its January, March, and May 2009 concerts.

The concert will be recorded on CD and the winner's photo featured on the concert poster.

Auditions will be held October 10, 2009 at
Clark College, 1933 Ft. Vancouver Way, Vancouver, WA.

Pianists: entire work, memorization required.

Flautists and violists: entire work, memorization encouraged but not required.

All students are to audition without accompaniment.

An evaluation will be given to all students who audition.

Deadline for applications is October 1, 2009.

For application forms/information contact:

503.285.7621/360.992.2195

www.oregonchambermusic.org





NEWS *International Institute for Young Musicians*

2009 IYIM (International Institute for Young Musicians) Brochures in the Mail

July is IYIM time...time to connect with old friends, make new ones and expand your pianistic skills. The 2009 Summer Music Academy promises to be the best ever. Don't miss it!

Your own IYIM brochure should be in your mailbox soon. If you don't receive a copy, email Executive Director Charles Hung at chung@iiym.com. Application forms can be downloaded at http://www.iiym.com/pdf/application_09.pdf.

MTNA State Winners Announced

The Music Teachers National Association state competitions were held across the country through November. Nineteen IYIM were named winners or alternates at the junior and senior levels.

Congratulations! Division auditions take place this month, with the national finals to take place in Atlanta March 28 and 29.

IYIM Alumni

Kuok-wai Lio (First Place, IYIM Competition, 2004) is a student at the Curtis Institute. He will be performing with the Kansas City Symphony in concerts from January 23-25, including one at the Lied Center of Kansas.



Don't measure yourself by what you have accomplished, but by what you should have accomplished with your ability. - John Wooden





Cascadia Composers of NACUSA (National Association of Composers, USA)

will present its inaugural concert of new chamber works by seven of the region's most distinguished composers: **David Bernstein, Jack Gabel, Gary Noland, Dan Senn, Greg Steinke, Tomas Svoboda, Jeff Winslow** performed by one of Portland's most daring contemporary classical music ensembles **fEAR no MUSIC** and several guest artists, including pianist **Alexandre Dossin**, who won First Prize and Special Prize at the Martha Argerich International Piano Competition in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2003.

Tickets - www.ArtixPdx.com

More info: <http://www.cascadiacomposers.org>

Or call: (503) 235-3714 or (503) 396-5294



**At the Old Church, 1422 S.W. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97201,
Friday, March 13th, 2009, 8:00 pm
General admission \$20, seniors \$15, students \$5**

Willamette University Chamber Players in Concert

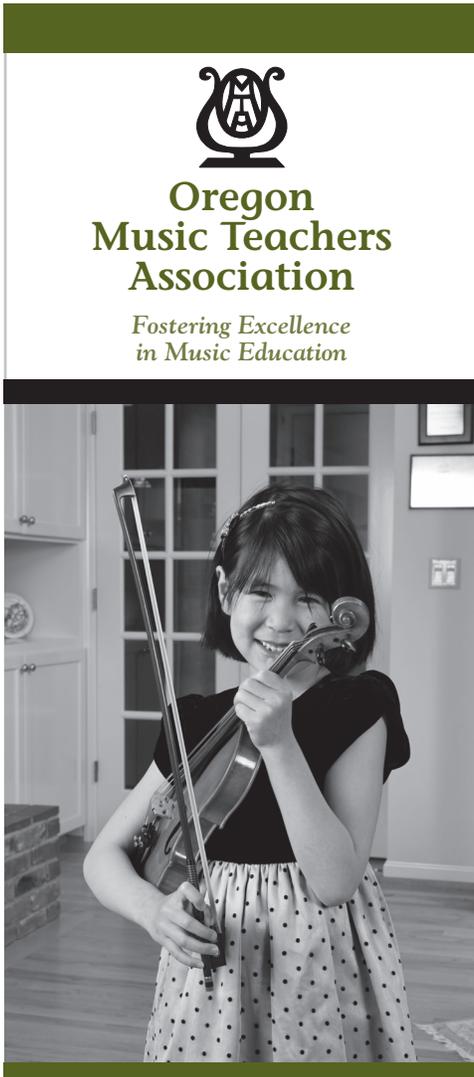
With Guest Violist, Danny Seidenberg

On Wednesday, March 18, 2009, The Willamette University Chamber Players—a faculty chamber ensemble that includes pianist Anita King, violinist Daniel Rouslin, flutist, Sarah Tiedemann and horn player, Michael Hettwer—will present a concert of Beethoven and Brahms in Hudson Hall, Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center on the Willamette University campus. They will be joined by guest violist, Danny Seidenberg.

The concert, open to the public, will take place at
7:30 PM in Hudson Hall
Mary Stuart Rogers Music Center
on the Willamette University Campus

Admission is free and without ticket. The program features Beethoven's *Sonata Opus 12, No. 3 in E-flat Major*, for violin and piano, Brahms; *Trio, Opus 40 in E-flat Major* for horn, violin and piano, and Beethoven's *Serenade Opus 25 in D Major* for flute, violin and viola.

For further information contact the Willamette Music Department at 503-370-6255.



Order OMTA Brochures

The brochure explains in clear, concise language the advantages of studying with an OMTA teacher as well as the benefits of becoming a member of OMTA, thus making it an ideal vehicle for recruiting students and new members or for publicizing the organization.

Brochures are 4 for \$1 plus shipping.
Contact Bonnie Esbensen at 541-758-0036 for shipping costs for your order.
Brochures are free to districts for official OMTA business, but shipping costs may still apply.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

How many brochures do you want? _____

If this order is for your district, which district? _____

Make check out to: OMTA

Mail to: Bonnie Esbensen, 3925 NW Tillicum Pl., Corvallis, OR 97330

Large Print Directory

It just occurred to me, having printed one for myself, that there may be others out there that would appreciate a copy of the Directory with larger print. Some of us have less than perfect eyes. I can supply a copy at approximately 125% of normal size for \$12.00 + shipping (\$2.53) and handling (\$2.00) for a total of \$19.53. Please make your check out to me, Ed Davie. These are offered at cost.

Ed Davie, Support Secretary
255 Jessica Drive
Forest Grove, OR 97116-1295
edavie@oregonmta.org



SYLLABUS SUPPLIES

Syllabus manuals for piano, strings, woodwinds, Celtic harp, guitar, and jazz piano are available for purchase. Also available are the current repertoire lists. Prices and shipping costs are as follows:

	Members	Non-members
Piano Syllabus	\$10.00	\$15.00
Jazz Piano Syllabus	\$5.00	\$10.00
String	\$5.00	\$10.00
Woodwinds	\$5.00	\$10.00
Celtic Harp	\$5.00	\$10.00
Guitar	\$5.00	\$10.00
Repertoire lists:		
Lower Division (New! 2007)	\$10.00	\$15.00
Upper Division	\$4.00	\$8.00

Shipping:

- Orders totaling \$5.00, add \$1.25
- Orders totaling \$10.00, add \$2.50
- Orders totaling \$15.00, add \$3.50
- Orders totaling \$20.00, add \$4.50

Please send your checks, made out to OMTA to
Darlene Goin
12201 SE 162nd Avenue
Happy Valley, OR 97086-6766
503-658-8251





Submitting Articles and Ads

Please send articles, ads and accompanying graphics (in TIFF, EPS, JPEG or PDF format) to me via e-mail at shelley.bl@verizon.net. MS Word attachments are best.

1/4 column ads (and articles about events which require an admission fee or tuition):

\$10.00 for members
\$25.00 for non-members

Larger ads at a proportional cost.
(Contact me for amounts.)

Publication dates and deadlines are listed below.
Submitting material before deadlines is always helpful and appreciated.

Thank you.
Shelley Blumberg, *Music News* Editor

Issues Deadlines

Sept/Oct	Aug. 1	Mar/Apr	Feb. 1
Nov/Dec	Oct. 1	May/June	Apr. 1
Jan/Feb	Dec. 1		

The Oregon Music Teachers Association, Inc.

PIANO SYLLABUS with Virginia Hawley Buhn *A Professional Course of Study on DVD*

The OMTA Piano Syllabus is an outline of study designed to provide students with a thorough background in keyboard skills, musical understanding and performance ability. The DVDs offer ideas and methods for implementing the syllabus as a basis for learning and performance.

The original VCRs were developed by Virginia Buhn in 1996 and have sold more than 1200 copies. The new DVDs follow the course outline of the OMTA Syllabus Book and are designed to help piano teachers prepare students for a successful evaluation.

JAZZ PIANO SYLLABUS with Gary Ruppert *A Professional Course of Study on DVD*

The OMTA Jazz Piano Syllabus was developed by Gary Ruppert in the mid 1980s. A revision, done in the summer of 2003, was based on feedback received from teachers, students, and adjudicators who used the first version. Their comments and encouragement have been of inestimable value.

This DVD is meant to help teachers and their students navigate the various levels of the Jazz Syllabus and discover the joys of studying jazz piano.

(See order from below.)

Make checks or money orders payable to:

OMTA, Joan B. Gathercoal, NCTM
3328 SW Chintimini Avenue, Corvallis, OR 97333-1529
Phone: 541-752-4732



Syllabus Video Order Form



Item	OMTA Member Price Each	Non-OMTA Member Price Each	Quantity	Subtotal
Piano Syllabus DVDs (set of 2)	\$20.00	\$25.00		
Jazz Piano Syllabus	\$15.00	\$20.00		
Postage	\$3.00	\$3.00		
<i>All proceeds go to the Jean Baines Proctor Memorial Fund.</i>				Total:



OMTA MERIT CERTIFICATES

OMTA merit certificates are available to OMTA instructors and are earned by students who have completed a minimum of 30 lessons during the current teaching year.

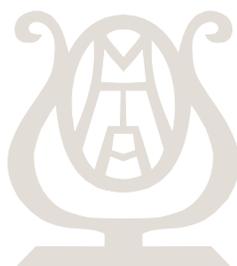
These attractive, parchment-like half-sheet certificates are stamped with the OMTA embossed seal. Levels 2 through 14 are further enhanced by gold seals and colored ribbons. (A level represents a year of study and is not related to Syllabus levels.) The determination of the level of each student's award and all record keeping are the teacher's responsibilities. The student's name and level, and the teaching season (2007-2008) will be printed on the certificate. Certificates are stamped with the signature of OMTA President, Susan Todd, and there is a space for the teacher to sign. They are usually given in May or June and should be ordered three weeks in advance of the time the teacher wants to give them to students. You may pre-order via e-mail.

Guidelines for Ordering:

1. List the quantity of certificates desired for each level with each student's name typed or clearly printed.
2. Indicate the date you need the certificates (remember to allow 3 weeks).
3. Include a check or money order payable to OMTA (50 cents per certificate).
4. Include a copy of your current membership card.
5. All orders must be received by Fen-Fang Tsao, Merit Certificate Chair, by May 1, 2009.

For more information, contact Fen-Fang:

16075 SW Turtledove Lane
Beaverton OR 97007
503-521-8788
fragrance888@hotmail.com



Additional Study Guides



The following materials are privately produced by some of our members for your benefit.

SYLLABUS STUDY SHEETS

Revised: 2006 version now available
from Ed Davie.

Phone: 503-357-3185

E-mail: edavie@oregonmta.org

The price for one set of Levels I–X (10 sheets)
is \$12.00 + \$5.00 p & h.

The purchase price includes copy
rights for your own studio.

All proceeds are donated to the Roberta Davie Memorial
Composition Scholarship.

For more information,
contact Ed Davie and ask for an explanation sheet.

****NEW****

PIANO SYLLABUS AIDS (2006–2008)

Copies of the most recent (2006–2008) rhythm-reading and sight-reading examples used during exams for Levels 1–10 are now available for reference in preparing students for their exams. **These are not the examples currently being used during exams.** If you would like to have a set, send a \$3.00 check (to cover Xerox and mailing costs) made out to Lisette Sage and mailed to her at 15240 SW Obsidian St., Beaverton, OR 97007-8949. (Earlier copies from 2001–2003 as well as 2004–2006 are also still available for \$3.00 each.) Please be sure to specify which set(s) you would like to have.

SUPER SCALES A LA SYLLABUS

Revised!

Music Notation in All Keys
Major & Minor Scales, Chords,
Arpeggios, Progressions, Modes

Levels 1, 2, 3 Book 1	\$15.00
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Levels 7, 8, 9 Book 3	15.00
Postage: 1 book	2.00
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Portland, OR 97229-3114

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(on areas each district encompasses and how to reach the chairs):*
<http://www.oregonmta.org/directory-local.html>

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